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SEP 16 2002
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT:

The abstract has been amended as follows:

A piezoelectric actuator comprises a plurality of [stacked] piezoelectric elements stacked in a thickness direction thereof for undergoing expansion/contraction movement to vibrationally drive the piezoelectric actuator [elements] in accordance with a driving signal applied to the piezoelectric elements [thereto]. Each of the piezoelectric elements has a length extending in a direction generally perpendicular to the [same thickness in a] stacking direction [of the piezoelectric elements.] The length of each of at least two of the piezoelectric elements being different from the length of at least one other of the piezoelectric elements.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Paragraph beginning at line 4 of page 26 has been amended as follows:

The piezoelectric elements 23a, 23b, 23c, 23d, 23e and 23f [expnad] expand in the longitudinal direction because the positively polarized surfaces thereof are respectively in contact with the electrodes 28a, 28c and 28e, i.e., the

negative poles and the negatively polarized surfaces thereof are respectively in contact with the electrodes 28f, 28b, 28d, 28g, i.e., the positive poles.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 34, 39 and 47 have been amended as follows:

34. (Amended) A piezoelectric actuator comprising: a plurality of stacked piezoelectric elements for undergoing expansion/contraction movement to vibrationally drive the piezoelectric elements in accordance with a driving signal applied thereto, each of the piezoelectric elements having the same thickness in a stacking direction of the piezoelectric elements and [according to claim 1; wherein each of the piezoelectric elements has] a length extending in a direction generally perpendicular to the stacking direction, the length of at least one of the piezoelectric elements being equal to the thickness thereof.

39. (Amended) A piezoelectric actuator comprising: a plurality of groups of piezoelectric elements stacked in a stacking direction for undergoing expansion/contraction movement to vibrationally drive the piezoelectric elements in accordance with a driving signal applied thereto, each of the groups of piezoelectric elements extending in a longitudinal direction generally perpendicular to the stacking direction,

and each piezoelectric element of at least one of the groups of piezoelectric elements having a thickness extending in the stacking direction and a length different from the thickness thereof and extending in the longitudinal direction;

[according to claim 37;] wherein the plurality of groups of piezoelectric elements comprises a first group of piezoelectric elements, a second group of piezoelectric elements disposed on the first group of piezoelectric elements and defining the at least one of the groups of piezoelectric elements, a third group of piezoelectric elements disposed on the second group of piezoelectric elements, and a fourth group of piezoelectric elements disposed on the second group of piezoelectric elements.

47. (Amended) A piezoelectric actuator comprising: a cantilever body having a fixed end, a free end opposite the fixed end, a first pair of groups of identical piezoelectric elements, and a second pair of groups of identical piezoelectric elements disposed between the first pair of groups of identical piezoelectric elements, the first and second pairs of groups of identical piezoelectric elements being disposed between the fixed end and the free end for undergoing expansion/contraction movement to vibrationally drive the piezoelectric elements in accordance with a driving signal applied thereto, each of the piezoelectric elements of the first and second pairs of groups of identical

piezoelectric elements having the same thickness in a stacking direction of the piezoelectric elements and [according to claim 46; wherein each piezoelectric element of the first and second pairs of groups of identical piezoelectric elements has] a length extending in a direction generally perpendicular to the stacking direction[;]_L and [wherein] the length of each piezoelectric element of the first pair of groups of identical piezoelectric elements [is] being one-half the length of each piezoelectric element of the second pair of groups of identical piezoelectric elements.